

Irrigon Petitions Board; Lone Reaffirms Stand

Delegations nearly filled the circuit court room of the courthouse Monday night at a tense and stormy meeting of the directors of Morrow County School district R-1.

One group from Irrigon brought a petition bearing 21 signatures and a statement asking to withdraw from the Morrow administrative district for the purpose of joining with Umatilla for their high school.

A larger group from Lone was present to reiterate firmly something that is already well known—they do not wish to combine their high school with Heppner, and they want their high school program strengthened rather than weakened.

Irrigon's petition was presented and received without incident, but Lone's protest, aroused because of a duplicate sheet that had been sent by the county office to lone advisory members in answer to a budget committee member's question on what savings could be effected if the Heppner and Lone schools were combined, brought some explosive moments.

Another group from Lexington also fearful of losing its elementary school, was on hand to request that it continue the same as at the present for the next two years.

The board acted quickly on both the Lone and Lexington requests, passing a motion made by Director Fred Martin that the lone high school be continued for another year, and another by Director Ed Dick that three teachers be allocated to the Lexington school for next year. The latter action brought a lone dissenting vote from Director D. O. Nelson of Lexington. The elementary school there has four teachers this year. The motion will apparently mean that one teacher will take the 15 pupils in the first grade, another will have a combination class of second and third grade pupils, and the third teacher will have a combination of third and fourth grade pupils.

Mrs. Albert Partlow presented the Irrigon petition and Mrs. Ernest Jorgensen read the statement that listed five reasons for the action. The board accepted the petition on motion by Director Dick. It was pointed out however, that there is an apparent disparity in the statutes on procedure by the board with such a petition, one law stating that the petition should be submitted to the boundary board and the other stating that it should go to the State Department of Education.

Superintendent Robert Van Houte said Wednesday that Attorney Robert Abrams is checking to determine correct procedure of handling the petition. Strong feelings of the lone group permeated the meeting, and an eruption came after the motion to continue the lone high school had been passed. Jack Hynd of Cecil started to read a prepared statement that pointed out that students living in that area would have too far to travel by bus to come to Heppner and declaring that they would be gone from home from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.

During the reading of the statement, Director Martin stopped Hynd by asking, "What's your point, Jack?" The director apparently thought the statement unnecessary because the board had declared that it had not discussed closing the lone school and had just passed a motion that it would not close the school. On the other hand, Hynd, who came late, may not have heard of the action.

When the director interrupted the speaker, several in the audience shouted, "Let him speak." One person challenged Martin by declaring to him, "You're out of order."

Hynd sat down, but other directors urged him to continue. Martin apologized after it had been cleared, and Hynd finished reading the statement.

A number of letters that were presented by the lone delegation to the board were not read but were referred to the budget committee and entered in the minutes upon motion by Director Dick.

Among those from Lone were some who pointed out that the sheet prepared by the county office on savings that might be effected by closing the lone school was pressure being used by the board to force the closure.

Directors replied that the matter had not been discussed at a board meeting and that the sheet was prepared in answer to questions directed by members of a budget committee at a recent meeting.

Asked what members made the request, Director Martin replied that it was one member. He declined to give his name.

When Supt. Van Houte later in the meeting proposed that a librarian be hired to serve the 450 students of Heppner elementary school in conformance with state standards, protests came from both lone and Irrigon.

Van Houte replied that their needs for library work would not be overlooked but because the schools were smaller the task could be done part time by existing teachers.

The board was frequently interrupted by questions from the floor throughout the meeting. The Irrigon letter, signed "Parents and citizens of North Morrow county," states, "We desire a larger high school with a more complete curriculum." It cited a

recommendation of the State Department of Education that "a high school of 300 be considered as the minimum that can provide a sound program of studies adequately preparing students for the world of today."

It pointed out that there would be no problem in transportation, since the highways are the "best in the area" and the greatest distance would be 22 miles.

It also reiterated that engineers have declared that a population area should not be located "nearer than 25 to 30 miles from a rocket testing site such as Boeing Company proposes."

A high school at Boardman

would be 11 miles from the project, the statement said.

"The present administrative law states that an administrative district should be established in accordance with economic and geographical conditions," it said.

To divide the county into two administrative districts would be in accordance with the administrative law and eliminate the traveling of excessive distances, and the conducting of business that is not familiar to board members of both ends of the county."

As proposed by the Irrigon residents, the district that would

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Benefit Games Tonight at Lone

Advance ticket sales at Lone indicate that March of Dimes benefit basketball games there tonight (Thursday) may top the \$252 turned over to the cause at the recent benefit in Heppner. Pete Glennie, coordinator for the county chapter of the National Foundation, said late Wednesday.

The doubleheader will find lone's town team playing Hermiston and the Morrow County Growers' team playing Condon. The twin bill is scheduled to start at 7:15 p.m. with admission of \$1 for adults, 25c for students and 10c for children.

Lone grade school chorus will sing at one half time and the Heimburger-Halvorsen trampoline act will perform at the other. The MCGG-Condon game has added interest because of the keen competition between them. In previous meetings, each has won one.

Chamber to Hear Field Director

Jack A. Sutton, Jr., national field director for the men's work of the United Christian Missionary Society, will be guest speaker at the meeting of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday, it is announced.

Charles Knox, pastor of the Heppner Christian church, arranged the program. Sutton will speak on "The Chamber's Witness to its Community."

The speaker is a former heating engineer and has also had experience as farmer, school teacher, athlete, salesman, electrician and business owner.

A native of Iowa, he attended Colorado State Teachers' College at Greeley, Colo. He has been a member of the board of managers of the United Society and the board of Phillips University, Enid, Okla. Since going into men's work, he has served the Christian churches of the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Since 1951 he has averaged more than 40 speeches per month in this service.

Dancing Lessons To Start Tuesday

Dancing lessons, under sponsorship of the Elks, will begin Tuesday night, February 19, in the Elks hall. The class will be for beginning adults.

This will be the fourth series of lessons to be sponsored by the Elks and Jerry and Geneva Rickles of Pasco, Wn., are the instructors. Those seeking further information may contact Mrs. Conley Lanhay or Mrs. L. E. Dick.

Low Streamflow Forecast Because of Poor Snowpack

Streamflow in Umatilla Morrow and Gilliam counties during the 1963 irrigation season will be considerably below average largely due to an extremely poor snowpack, which is close to the record low of 1934, according to a report released by W. T. Frost, snow survey supervisor for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, cooperating with Oregon State University and State Engineer. In some cases, stored water will be sufficient to complete a satisfactory irrigation season but most lands, especially where no stored water is available, will experience real water shortages.

Water content of the mountain snowpack is near the record low. The snowpack now is 27 percent of the average and is only one-third of last year at this date.

Watershed soils have been adequately re-primed and now hold up to 88 percent of their total capacity.

Storage has been proceeding rapidly in Cold Springs Reservoir which now holds 32,700 acre feet compared with 28,400 a.f. available just one year ago. The latter figure is also the average February 1 storage.

McKay, which was fully drained last year, had caught 14,300 acre feet by February 1 this year, just 1000 acre feet more than last year. The average Feb-

ruary storage is 33,700 acre feet. Streamflow on the Umatilla has totaled only 63 percent average since October 1, (preliminary data furnished by U. S. Geological Survey, Portland, Oregon) and the forecast for the April-September flow at Pendleton is 70 percent of the 1943-57 average. Cold Springs Reservoir should fill.

Flow of McKay Creek is forecast at 18,000 a.m. or 60 percent average for April-September. The flow from February 1 through September 30 is forecast at 41,000 acre feet or 67 percent average. Adding the stored water, there will be only about 55,000 acre feet available from this source April through September.

Smaller streams will have extremely short flows with some lands receiving only one irrigation.

Statewide, Oregon's water supply outlook for the spring and summer months of 1963 is extremely poor except where adequate reservoir facilities can provide stored water. Reservoirs continue to gain storage from recent heavy rains and melting of snow up to elevations of 7000 feet. Snowpack is nearly record low and summer streamflow will be much below average resulting in drastic "shortages" for most lands without access to stored water supplies.

Chamber Hears Ideas On Meters

Pros and cons of parking meters were discussed at the meeting of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday. The matter was brought up at the request of the city council which had asked that businessmen give their ideas on restoring an envelope system that had been used some years ago to save the parking of a "courtesy loan" by the merchants.

Consensus of those expressing opinions seemed to be that the meters should not be taken out because of the congestion that would result without them. However, an envelope system was favored by those present.

Mike Whitesmith presented an idea for a variation of the envelope system whereby a citation slip would be attached. At the time the officer noticed a violation he would place the envelope on the windshield and put a nickel in the meter as a courtesy from the Chamber of Commerce. However, the envelope would have a message saying that if the nickel were not returned to a designated place in a stipulated time, the offender would be subject to payment of a fine. The slip on the envelope would be retained by the officer as his record of the violation.

Dr. C. M. Wagner turned the matter over to the merchants committee for consideration and recommendation. It was suggested that a committee from the council meet with the merchants.

Orville Cutsforth reported on a legislative forum held in Pendleton Saturday and moved that the chamber's taxation committee study H. B. 1033 which would cut personal property taxes, but through its definition of "inventory" would not reduce the farmers' personal property taxes. At the same time it would impose a net receipts tax, an additional burden to the farmer, Cutsforth said.

The motion carried, and the taxation committee was asked to check the bill and bring in a recommendation.

Committee Talks Of Parks District

Overtures towards the formation of a parks district and parks commission in the county are underway through the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce as a result of discussions at recent meetings of the group.

Orville Cutsforth, chairman of the current parks committee for the county, brought matters to the attention of the Chamber where some financing is needed for improvement of Cutsforth park and formation of others. The Chamber voted to contribute \$25 as a share of a survey conducted for a proposed Chapin Creek park.

Oliver Creswick cited the need to have a parks organization with more legal foundation than the present committee, which has no method of financing parks work, except for calling for donations.

He suggested formation of a parks district and a commission, which would get a small tax levy for the purpose. It would be necessary to propose such a commission through petition, after which an election would be held.

The matter was turned over to the Chamber's development committee, and at a luncheon Wednesday it discussed preliminary steps that might be taken. It was decided to check into other counties where such commissions are in existence and check with the State Parks Commission for further information.

When objectives are defined and needs more clearly listed, it is expected that a survey of interest will be taken in the county to determine what segments of the county would favor such a commission.

Two Students Get 4.0 GPA at Lone

Two Lone high school students made perfect 4.0 grade point averages at the school for the first semester's work in the 1962-63 school year, Gene Harryman, principal, announces.

The perfect grades were made by Tom Heimburger, junior, and by Cheryl Lundell, sophomore.

In all, ten were on the honor roll and four received honorable mention. Juniors topped the list with four on the honor roll.

Those on the roll are as follows:

Seniors—Louise Pointer, 3.60; Bill Akers, 3.40; Tass Morrison, 3.33.

Juniors—Tom Heimburger, 4.0; Arleta McCabe, 3.66; Judy Sherer, 3.66; Merrile Jo Morrison, 3.40.

Sophomores—Cheryl Lundell, 4.0.

Freshmen—Cherilyn Smouse, 3.83; Karen Hams, 3.66.

Receiving honorable mention were the following: Junior—Steve Lindstrom, 3.16. Sophomores—Robert Emert, 3.0; Sidney Zinter, 3.16. Freshman—Tim Tullis, 3.0.

Opinion Kills Hope Of Recreation Building

A letter from Orval Etter, research attorney for the League of Oregon Cities, to Heppner City Attorney Jos. J. Nys virtually sounds the death knell for the proposal of a community committee to request a bond issue for a recreation building in Heppner. Under the plan, private parties would lease the facility from the city to operate the motion picture theatre and bowling alley that it would have contained.

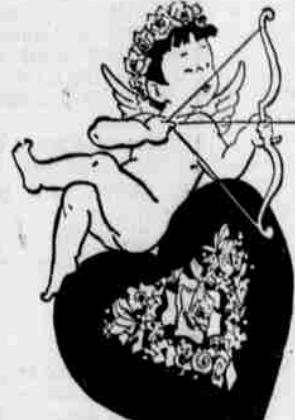
"In view of the intended leasing and management of the building," Etter wrote, "I believe that financing and construction of it by the city would be of exceedingly dubious legality. It looks to me as if any court in which the project was challenged as to its constitutionality would very probably hold that the city funds expended on the project would serve private purposes only."

"If the building were constructed and then let out for short periods of time to a variety of private parties for recreational purposes, I believe that expenditure of city funds to construct and maintain the building would be for public purpose. In their aggregate, the combination of the various private uses, none of them exclusive over a very long period of time, would constitute a public use."

"If, on the other hand, the city financed and constructed the building and then itself operated a bowling alley and a motion picture theatre in the building and made these facilities available to the public, I believe that the expenditure for the building would be for a public purpose. I believe that this would be true even if everyone who played in the bowling alley or was a spectator to an entertainment in the theatre had to pay an admission price for the service. Under these circumstances, I could see no essential difference between the recreation center and the publicly owned and operated swimming pools that are increasingly common in Oregon communities."

"It would appear legally possible for a park and recreation district legally to finance and construct such a recreation center and make the center available to the public on either of the bases just suggested for the city. I think, however, that it would be no more possible for such a district than for the city to finance and construct the building and then lease it to proprietors of a bowling alley and a motion picture theatre."

"An additional reason for saying this is the constitutional prohibition in Oregon against private use of public credit. The state constitution states: 'No... shall... raise money for or loan its credit to, or in aid



Happy Valentine's Day

Lexington Boy, 8, Severely Burned As Can Explodes

Robert Hughes, 8, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hughes of Lexington, was severely burned on his face, hands, arms and his chest down to his waist Saturday evening when a 5-gallon gasoline can exploded as he attempted to pour a mixture of fuel oil and gasoline onto a smoldering fire in a trash barrel.

The boy, a third grader at Lexington school, was taken immediately to the Pioneer Memorial hospital by his father and he remained there Thursday. His physician said that the burns are second degree, but there may be some third degree burns on his hands. Bandages were to be changed Thursday morning at which time the severity of the burns could be determined. If there are third degree burns, some skin grafting may be necessary. However, indications are that there will be no permanent scars on the face, his father said.

Probably only about a quart of the oil-gasoline mixture was in the can when the boy tried to pour it on the smoldering trash, located some 50 feet from the house. The explosion, which ripped open the can and sent the top soaring 100 feet and away, was apparently caused by the vapor being ignited.

A sweatshirt that Robert was wearing caught fire and became enveloped in flames. The boy dropped to the ground and rolled as he had been taught to do in such a case. His father heard the commotion and came out of the house. He attempted to tear off the sweatshirt, then jerked it off over the boy's head.

Robert is one of two Hughes children. He has two brothers and a sister.

State Tax Aid Offered Tuesday

Assistance in preparing Oregon state income tax returns will be given by State Tax Commission personnel at the courthouse, Heppner, on Tuesday, February 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Taxpayers wishing help in filing their returns are asked to bring earnings slips and other information needed to determine the correct tax, including, if possible, a copy of their federal return filed for the year 1962.

The Tax Commission points out that in order to be eligible for a refund a taxpayer must file a return. Refunds are issued on a "first come, first served" basis. It is also emphasized that if a joint return is filed, both spouses must sign it. Deadline for filing is April 15.

Freshmen Plan Two Fund-raising Benefits

The Freshmen class of Heppner high school has set class projects as means of raising funds for the benefit of the March of Dimes campaign.

A car wash will be held at Farley's Motor Co. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 16, with freshmen class members doing the work at \$1 per car.

They will also sponsor a cake draw between games and at half-time next Tuesday night when the Heppner-Pilot Rock makeup basketball game will be played here. Tickets will be on sale at the game for 25c each, or four for 75c.

Bert Huff Takes Course on Credit

Bert Huff of the Heppner branch, First National Bank, is in Portland attending a credit school at the head office of the bank. He started the course Monday and will be in Portland for two weeks.

During his absence, Bud Molter of Portland has been assigned to the Heppner branch to assist with Huff's duties. Manager Jack Bedford said.

of, any such (joint) company, corporation, or association." Oregon Constitution, Article XI, No. 9.

"For a city or district to finance and construct a recreation center and then simply lease it to one or two proprietors to operate as a bowling alley and motion picture theatre would appear to be a rather bald raising of money in aid of a private concern, contrary to the constitutional prohibition."

"Mr. (Ted) Smith's inquiry is similar to a recent inquiry received in this office from a city on the coast regarding use of public facilities."

Attorney Etter included copies of the answer to the coastal town, elaborating on the points similar to those brought out in the letter to City Attorney Nys.

The Heppner city council had received petitions bearing signatures of more than 200 residents asking for the bond election. A council committee had reported favorably on the proposal, with some reservations, and Mayor Al Lamb had appointed a joint council-community committee to work on preliminary steps prior to the calling of the election.

Motion Picture, 'The Big Blast,' Slated Sunday

"The Big Blast," a sound, color religiously-oriented film, will be shown at the Heppner elementary school multipurpose room Sunday evening, February 17, starting at 7 p.m. under the auspices of the South Morrow County Ministerial association.

Billed as a "color spectacular," the movie is 60 minutes in length. It was produced on location in cooperation with the United States Department of Defense and the U. S. Air Force.

When Air Force Captain Bob Emory returns home, he finds not only the assignment of testing the high speed jet interceptor, the F106, in his line of duty, but also the more important task of breaking the barrier which has grown between himself and his younger brother, Jeff.

All of the action of Air Force activity plus suspense and grandeur of hazardous sky-jumping competition on the slopes of Mount Rainier make this full color feature a classic in presenting the Christian message through the medium of dramatic motion pictures, the sponsors state.

There will be no admission but a freewill offering will be taken. The public is invited.

Chest Conference Calls Physicians

Morrow County TB and Health Association has issued invitations to all physicians in the county to attend the Village Green Chest Disease Conference, set for February 22 and 23 at Cottage Grove, according to Mrs. W. W. Weatherford, association president.

The conference promises to be one of the most outstanding of its kind in the nation on the study of respiratory diseases. It is planned to be unique in that there will be no formal lectures. The audience will participate in developing diagnosis and discussing therapy and surgical procedures.

WEATHER

(Leonard Gilliam, observer)

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	51	40	—
Friday	49	32	—
Saturday	42	30	—
Sunday	42	25	—
Monday	45	21	—
Tuesday	34	26	.06
Wednesday	40	32	.21

Republicans Plan Future; Toast Lone '62 Victory

Morrow County Republicans were rather few in number when they gathered at Stefan's restaurant, Lone, with their Lincoln Day dinner Tuesday night because of conflicting meetings around the county.

But the 27 present made plans for better organization in the county and more active campaigns in the future. Although the meeting had invited Democrats at the advanced rate of \$25 per plate while the Republicans paid \$2.50, not a single Democrat took advantage of the offer.

Chairman Donald Turner reviewed results of last year's elections and wryly declared that this could be considered a "victory dinner" although the lone victory to which the party could point here was that of Governor Mark Hatfield.

Joe Burns of Hermiston, state treasurer for the G.O.P., was principal speaker of the evening and said that at present, the

Republican party in Oregon is in a "weakened condition." However, he added that the future looks very bright.

"We can't start any sooner in being active in the party," he said. Burns told of organizational plans that will reach into the counties and of fund-raising campaigns that will promote a more active party. He urged that the Republicans support their committeemen, committeewomen and county officers.

"This is the best way for victory in the future," he said. Oliver Creswick, recently appointed by Gov. Hatfield as justice of the peace in the 6th district, Morrow county, spoke briefly about his new office.

Chairman Turner said that this would be the last dinner meeting of the party in the county until Lincoln's birthday in 1964 at which time it is expected to have a speaker of national prominence to stimulate interest for greater party work here.